various recommendations contained in the report of the Arrears' Committee (Malimath Committee) which went into the problem of arrears in the High Courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, Central Ministries and all the High Courts.

Boarding and lodging expenses for senior managerial employees of companies

925. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that under Rule 6D(2) of the Income-tax Rules, only Rs 200/- is allowable towards Hotel Expenses per day to the highest paid employees of a company in places such as Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta while travelling outside headquarters;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the said amount is found insufficient towards reasonable lodging and boarding expenses; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise the ceiling fixed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The object of prescribing monetary ceilings under Rule 6D of the Income-tax Rules, 1962 is to discourage ostentatious and excessive business expenditure. Therefore, these ceilings are not always related to the expenses which a person may choose to incur. Such monetary ceilings are, however, reviewed as and when considered necessary

Setting up of new steel plants

926. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for setting up new steel plants; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what was the total quantity of iron ore produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise and the quantity used for steel making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) Proposals for setting up Steel Plants at Vijayanagar in Karnataka and Daitari in Orissa have been under consideration of the Government. Final decision on implementation of these projects would depend upon the availability of funds in the VIII Plan period.

(b) The quantity of iron ore produced and quantity consumed in the country during 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 and April to August, 1990 in iron and steel making is given below:—

(Quantity in million tonnes)

Year	Production	Domestic Consumption
1987-88 . . .	49·0	19 0
1988-89 . . .	48 9	19 4
1989-90 . . .	49 5	20 7
1990-91 (April-August)	18 9	8 02

Loss suffered by SAIL due to poor performance of handling agents at Delhi and Kanpur

927. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Ltd. are incurring losses due to the poor performance of the present handling agents at Delhi and Kanpur;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to appoint new handling agents at these places, and